



June 2016

## **Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups (CHALENG)**

Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups for Veterans, commonly referred to as Project CHALENG was launched in 1994 to bring together providers, advocates, Veterans and other concerned citizens to identify the needs of homeless Veterans and work to meet those needs through planning and cooperative action.

Project CHALENG has two components: a CHALENG survey, in which participants rate the needs of homeless Veterans in their local communities, and CHALENG meetings, which encourage partnership development between VA and community service providers. The results of the CHALENG survey are used each year to identify unmet needs and encourage new partnership development to meet those needs.

The legislation guiding this initiative is contained in Public Laws 102-405, 103-446 and 105-114.

Over the years CHALENG has helped build thousands of relationships between VA and community agencies so they can better serve homeless Veterans locally. Data from CHALENG on Veterans' unmet needs has assisted VA in developing major new services for Veterans such as the Homeless Veteran Dental Program (HVDP), the expansion of the Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, the Veterans Justice Programs and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). In addition community organizations use CHALENG data in grant applications to support services for homeless Veterans; grant applications are for VA, other Federal, local government, and community foundation dollars, which maximizes community participation in serving homeless Veterans.

### **2015 CHALENG Survey Participation**

- In 2015, 6,161 individuals completed a CHALENG Participant survey. This included 3,765 homeless Veterans and 2,396 non-homeless Veterans (VA staff, state and public officials, community leaders, volunteers).
- Eleven percent of the homeless Veteran survey participants were women. 57.7 percent were between the ages of 45-60 with another 19.9 percent 61 or older. 48.2 percent indicated other than White (including "Don't Know" responses); 8.4 percent identified their ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino.

- There were 2,396 non-homeless Veteran participants. Of these, 43.6 percent were VA staff, 1.9 percent were other Federal employees, 37.9 percent were state/local official or community providers, and 16.5 percent were interested members of the community.

### **Top Homeless Veteran Needs Identified in 2015 CHALENG Survey**

- Nine of the top ten *unmet* needs were the same for male and female Veterans: housing for registered sex offenders, child care, legal assistance in four separate areas (prevent eviction/foreclosure, child support issues, restore a driver's license, outstanding warrants and fines), family reconciliation assistance, credit counseling, and discharge upgrade. One need that was in the top ten unmet for male Veterans (but not female Veterans) was financial guardianship. Conversely, dental care was one need on the female Veterans' top ten unmet list, but not on the male Veterans' needs list.
- Nine of the top ten *met* needs were also the same for male and female Veterans: medical services, testing and treatment in three separate areas (TB, Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS), case management, services for emotional or psychiatric problems, medication management, substance abuse treatment, and food. Personal hygiene and clothing were needs unique to the top 10 lists of male and female Veterans respectively.
- For male Veterans, the nine of the top ten *unmet* needs were the same in 2014 and 2015 (financial assistance to prevent eviction or foreclosure in 2014 was replaced by credit counseling in 2015). Nine of the top ten *unmet* needs for female Veterans were the also the same (financial guardianship in 2014 was replaced by discharge upgrade in 2015.)
- Similarly, the top ten *met* needs were the same for male Veterans in 2014 and 2015. Nine of the top ten *met* needs for female Veterans were the same in 2014 and 2015 (health and wellness in 2014 was replaced by clothing in 2015.)
- Consistent with 2014 data and with the previous ten years of CHALENG data, met needs primarily reflect services that Veterans Health Administration (VHA) can provide directly, and unmet needs are primarily services that require community partnership to meet. This consistency underscores the importance of collaboration between federal, state, local, and community partners to meet the needs of homeless Veterans to successfully end homelessness.

## CHALENG 2015 Survey Results Summary

### CHALENG Participant Survey

#### A. CHALENG Participant Survey: Participation

Total number of participants: 6,161

- **Homeless Veteran participants: 3,765**
  - homeless Veteran male participants: 3,337
  - homeless Veteran female participants: 428
- **Non-homeless Veteran participants: 2,396**
  - VA Staff: 1,049
  - Other Federal staff: 46
  - State/local government agency, or community based homeless provider: 910
  - Interested member of the community: 391

#### B. CHALENG Homeless Veteran Participant Demographics

	<b>Male Veterans</b>	<b>Female Veterans</b>
Gender	88.6%	11.4%

<b>Age</b>	<b>Male Veterans</b>	<b>Female Veterans</b>	<b>All Veterans</b>
Less than 25	.8%	1.6%	.9%
25-34	8.7%	15.5%	9.4%
35-44	10.8%	22.5%	12.1%
45-60	57.9%	56.1%	57.7%
61+	21.9%	4.2%	19.9%

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Male Veterans</b>	<b>Female Veterans</b>	<b>All Veterans</b>
Non-Hispanic/ Non-Latino	77.4%	80.5%	77.7%
Hispanic/Latino	8.1%	10.3%	8.4%
Don't Know	14.5%	9.2%	13.9%

<b>Race</b>	<b>Male Veterans</b>	<b>Female Veterans</b>	<b>All Veterans</b>
American Indian or Alaskan	6.8%	6.7%	6.8%
Asian	0.7%	.7%	0.7%
Black or African American	38.2%	36.0%	37.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.6%	1.2%	0.7%
White	51.7%	52.7%	51.8%
Don't know	2.1%	2.7%	2.2%

<b>Where Veteran was living at time of Survey</b>	<b>Male Veterans</b>	<b>Female Veterans</b>	<b>All Veterans</b>
Literally Homeless (on streets, in shelter, in car, etc )	28.6%	27.8%	28.5%
Emergency Housing	5.5%	5.1%	5.5%
Transitional Housing (Grant and Per Diem housing, community contract housing)	29.6%	18.2%	28.3%
Permanent subsidized housing (HUD-VASH, section 8, etc )	20.2%	23.4%	20.6%
Unsubsidized housing (private apartment/house/condominium)	16.2%	25.5%	17.2%

**C. Ranking of Male Veteran Need (1 to 4 scale, with 1 equals unmet and 4 equals met)**

**Top Ten Highest Unmet Needs, Male Veterans**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Mean Score</b>
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.09
2	Child Care	2.20
3	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.30
4	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.33
5	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.33
6	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.37
7	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.37
8	Financial Guardianship	2.39
9	Credit Counseling	2.43
10	Discharge Upgrade	2.43

**Top Ten Highest Met Needs, Male Veterans**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Mean Score</b>
1	Medical Services	3.42
2	TB Testing and Treatment	3.33
3	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.24
4	Case Management	3.23
5	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.21
6	Medication Management	3.20
7	Personal Hygiene (Shower, Haircut, etc )	3.17
8	Food	3.17
9	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.16
10	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.14

**D. Ranking of Female Veteran Need (1 to 4 scale, with 1 equals unmet and 4 equals met)**

**Top Ten Highest Unmet Needs, Female Veterans**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Mean Score</b>
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.08
2	Child Care	2.32
3	Credit Counseling	2.49
4	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.49
5	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.49
6	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.49
7	Dental Care	2.51
8	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.53
9	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.53
10	Discharge Upgrade	2.54

**Top Ten Highest Met Needs, Female Veterans**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Mean Score</b>
1	Medical Services	3.39
2	TB Testing and Treatment	3.34
3	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.25
4	Case Management	3.23
5	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.23
6	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.23
7	Food	3.21
8	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.16
9	Clothing	3.11
10	Medication Management	3.10

**E. Ranking of Male Homeless Veteran Needs: Complete List ordered by Highest Unmet to Highest Met (1 to 4 scale, with 1 equals unmet and 4 equals met)**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Score</b>
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.09
2	Child Care	2.20
3	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.30
4	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.33
5	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.33
6	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.37
7	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.37
8	Financial Guardianship	2.39
9	Credit Counseling	2.43
10	Discharge Upgrade	2.43
11	Financial Assistance to Prevent Eviction or Foreclosure	2.46
12	Family and Marital Counseling	2.49
13	Emergency Housing for Families	2.50
14	Welfare Payments	2.51
15	Dental Care	2.52
16	Drop In Center and Day Programs	2.57
17	Goods (Furniture and Housewares) for New Apartment	2.63
18	Money Managing	2.64
19	Utility Assistance	2.66
20	Move-In Assistance	2.66
21	Re-Entry Services for Incarcerated Veterans	2.67
22	Social Networking	2.67
23	Parent Education	2.68
24	Vocational Rehabilitation	2.69
25	Affordable Housing	2.70

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Score</b>
26	Prevention	2.70
27	Job Training	2.72
28	Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability (SSD)	2.74
29	Finding a Job or Getting Employment	2.74
30	Life Skills Training	2.75
31	Long-term Permanent Housing	2.75
32	Transportation	2.75
33	Help Getting Identification and Other Legal Documents	2.76
34	Landlord Relations and Tenancy	2.76
35	Basic Services (Phone, Voicemail, Address)	2.77
36	Military Sexual Trauma	2.81
37	VA Disability/Pension	2.83
38	Education	2.84
39	Spiritual	2.87
40	Assisted Living for the Elderly	2.88
41	Elder Healthcare and Resources	2.91
42	Transitional Living Facility and Halfway House	2.96
43	Treatment for Dual Diagnosis	3.01
44	Eye Care and Glasses	3.01
45	Emergency/Immediate Shelter	3.02
46	Clothing	3.07
47	Detoxification from Substance	3.12
48	Health and Wellness	3.13
49	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.14
50	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.16
51	Food	3.17
52	Personal Hygiene (Shower, Haircut, etc )	3.17
53	Medication Management	3.20
54	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.21
55	Case Management	3.23

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Score</b>
56	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.24
57	TB Testing and Treatment	3.33
58	Medical Services	3.42

**F. Ranking of Female Homeless Veteran Needs: Complete List ordered by Highest Unmet to Highest Met (1 to 4 scale, with 1 equals unmet and 4 equals met)**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Score</b>
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.08
2	Child Care	2.32
3	Credit Counseling	2.49
4	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.49
5	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.49
6	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.49
7	Dental Care	2.51
8	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.53
9	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.53
10	Discharge Upgrade	2.54
11	Financial Guardianship	2.54
12	Drop In Center and Day Programs	2.60
13	Money Managing	2.64
14	Emergency Housing for Families	2.68
15	Social Networking	2.69
16	Family and Marital Counseling	2.69
17	Financial Assistance to Prevent Eviction or Foreclosure	2.70
18	Parent Education	2.72
19	Prevention	2.74
20	Breastfeeding Information and Supplies	2.75
21	Transportation	2.77
22	Basic Services (Phone, Voicemail, Address)	2.77

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Score</b>
23	Move-In Assistance	2.80
24	Affordable Housing	2.81
25	Re-Entry Services for Incarcerated Veterans	2.81
26	Goods (Furniture and Housewares) for New Apartment	2.82
27	Life Skills Training	2.83
28	Transitional Living Facility and Halfway House	2.83
29	Welfare Payments	2.83
30	Spiritual	2.84
31	Assisted Living for the Elderly	2.84
32	Help Getting Identification and Other Legal Documents	2.87
33	Landlord Relations and Tenancy	2.87
34	Vocational Rehabilitation	2.88
35	Job Training	2.90
36	Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability (SSD)	2.90
37	Finding a Job or Getting Employment	2.90
38	Long-term Permanent Housing	2.90
39	Domestic Violence Support Services	2.91
40	Women's Specific Mental Health Providers	2.92
41	Education	2.92
42	Military Sexual Trauma	2.93
43	Emergency/Immediate Shelter	2.93
44	Elder Healthcare and Resources	2.94
45	Utility Assistance	2.94
46	Gender-Specific Healthcare Provider Availability	2.95
47	Eye Care and Glasses	2.97
48	Treatment for Dual Diagnosis	3.00
49	VA Disability/Pension	3.01
50	Detoxification from Substance	3.04
51	Personal Hygiene (Shower, Haircut, etc )	3.04

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Score</b>
52	OB/GYN Services	3.05
53	Health and Wellness	3.07
54	Medication Management	3.10
55	Clothing	3.11
56	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.16
57	Food	3.21
58	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.23
59	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.23
60	Case Management	3.23
61	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.25
62	TB Testing and Treatment	3.34
63	Medical Services	3.39